

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2020 – 1:00PM
CONFERENCE CALL – DUE TO CORONAVIRUS PROTOCOL.**

Directors Present: Searle, Chupp, Franco, Hansen, H. Williams, Beals, Engel, Leonard, Grummel, Coleman, Fairley, Rath, Zawistowski, Paul

Directors Absent: Teefey

Others: Somone, Brubaker, Watson, Hoffmann, Gary Mack.

Approval of April, 2020 Agenda: Motion by Director Hansen, Seconded by Director Paul. All in favor. Motion passed.

Approval of the March 2020 BOD Minutes: Motion by Director Paul, Seconded by Director Hansen. All in favor. Motion passed.

Executive Directors Report: Visited with Fox Sports at Hawthorne to discuss the plight of horsemen during the coronavirus pandemic. A new e-mail program has been set up for improved e-mail communication with members. The IHHA has participated in the PPP offered by the SBA regarding the recent stimulus package. Status on our tax exempt status and the IRS is still pending. IRB meeting has been changed to Friday, April 24. It will be conducted via teleconferencing. Helping horsemen who live at Hawthorne by buying them a meal a day has been well-appreciated. A condolence card will be sent to Margo Langley. Had a conversation with Charlie Bidwell regarding the potential reopening of Balmoral. Still no clear picture of when we might return to racing. Communicate regularly with Hawthorne and IL. Dept. of Ag. When we do return we will have specific safety measures in place. Clark added: Everyone is working to get back to racing as soon as it is safely possible. Hawthorne is still waiting on their official casino license from the Illinois Gaming Board to continue construction. Brenda added: The Director at IL. Dept. of Ag will be sure to keep us in the loop regarding a return to racing.

ACTION ITEMS:

Legislative –. House and Senate has not returned to the Capital but smaller working groups are having discussions. There is talk of returning in late May or early June to pass the mandated budget. Nothing official, just rumors concerning gaming legislation this session. No recent IRB appointees, they have enough for a quorum. The gaming board is working but mostly from home.

Grassroots and Membership – memberships continue to come in and we are at 348.

County Fairs – The Macon County Fair in Decatur has cancelled their fair, including their scheduled one day of racing. Steve Searle was named the new chairman of the IHHA County Fair committee, replacing Clark Fairley who became President at last month's meeting.

Race Track Condition and Backstretch – The racetrack at Hawthorne is in good shape. They are open for jogging and training from 6 a.m. to about 1.p.m. Horsemen stabled at Hawthorne are hanging in there and appreciate the gift cards for meals that were donated to them. The word has been spread that we need to look out for each other and if someone needs help for themselves or their horses to reach out to an IHHA director for assistance.

Legal – Nothing to report.

Purse Account – With no income coming into the purse account, it continues to struggle. Even when we return to racing, in the likely event that no audience will be present at the tracks or the OTB's, a purse cut may be needed. We won't know when or how much though until we get back to actual racing.

Payment of Bills – Al motioned that pending his review of the bills at the office tomorrow (Tuesday) all of the bills be paid. Seconded by Paul, motion passes.

Finance – Nothing to report.

Public Relations/Social Media – Sharing on Facebook and Twitter as much as possible right now. Horsemen are starving for information. More updates, even minor ones, will be forthcoming.

Breeders – Nothing to report.

In concluding, President Fairley asked every director individually how things were going in their specific areas and encouraged everyone to speak up if assistance is needed somewhere.

The potential of qualifiers at Springfield in the near future was discussed. Although premature at this point in time, horsemen will be notified as soon as possible if this occurs and all will be given the opportunity to enter.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Director Paul, seconded by Director Williams. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 2:15 PM.